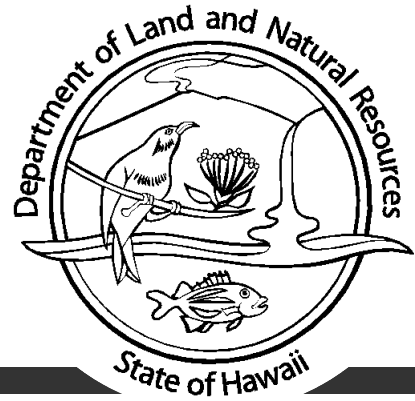


NEWS RELEASE

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CATFISH SEASON DELAYED TO BOOST SPAWNING RESULTS: APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE MAY 1 FOR NU'UANU RESERVOIR

The regular spring opening of Nu'uuanu Reservoir to catfish fishing will be delayed several weeks. In an effort to maximize the number of eggs collected from catfish spawning in the reservoir, biologists with the State's Division of Aquatic Resources are making an extra effort to locate nests with eggs, and to provide artificial habitats for nesting sites.

"The number of naturally spawning catfish in the reservoir has declined over the years," said Dennis Shinno, aquatic biologist in charge of the site. "A number of new fish have been introduced in the hopes they would start spawning, but they apparently aren't acclimated to Nu'uuanu conditions." Eggs collected from the reservoir are hatched out at a state facility, and the young fish are grown out and eventually returned to the reservoir.

"Allowing our biologists to increase the collection of eggs will help increase the catfish population in future seasons that fishermen can enjoy," said Bill Devick, DLNR Aquatic Resources administrator.

This year, spring catfishing will re-open on Saturday, June 3, 2000 at Nu'uuanu reservoir No. 4. Fishers who want to catch stocked channel catfish can do so by obtaining a valid State of Hawai'i freshwater game fishing license and entry fishing card. Fishing will continue on consecutive weekends, Saturdays and Sundays only, until all anglers with assigned fishing times have been accommodated.

Entry cards will indicate the date and time that fishers may enter the reservoir. Entry will be strictly limited to those who have been assigned to the specific time slots and to supervising adults for minors holding appropriate entry cards. Anglers must participate during the period they are assigned to fish. There will be no make-up periods or refunds.

Prospective anglers may pick up applications for entry fishing cards at DLNR's visitor center/permit counter at 1151 Punchbowl Street, room 130 and from various licensing agents around the state. Applications will be available May 1, 2000. The deadline for submitting applications to DLNR is 4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2000. A drawing will then be held to assign each cardholder a fishing date and time.

All cardholders will be required to show a valid freshwater game fishing license while fishing. Those eight (8) years old or younger are not required to be licensed, but must be accompanied by a licensed, supervising adult. All cardholders 15 years old or younger must be accompanied by a supervising adult.

The bag limit is two (2) channel catfish per licensed angler. Any channel catfish 16 inches long or larger must be kept by the angler and be counted toward the bag limit. Channel catfish caught by unlicensed anglers eight years old or younger will be included in the bag limit for the licensed, supervising adult. However, card holders eight years old or younger may purchase a license to obtain their own bag limit.

Each fishing day will be divided into four-hour fishing periods, a morning session from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and an afternoon session from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Warm clothing and rain gear are strongly recommended while fishing at Nu'uuanu reservoir. For further information, call DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources on O'ahu at 587-0100.

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